TOUCHING SIGHT

M. J. RoBards

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AMERICAN PRINTING
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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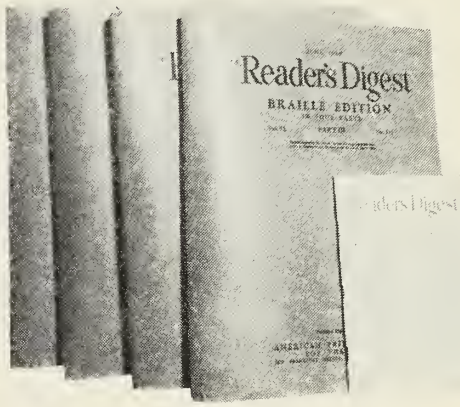
Copy 1

Left: Out of darkness, "seeing" fingers feel light into minds of the unsighted . . . Claudia Dotson, 15, finger-reads Braille. *Below:* After binding, four volumes of the Braille *Reader's Digest* dwarf print copy.

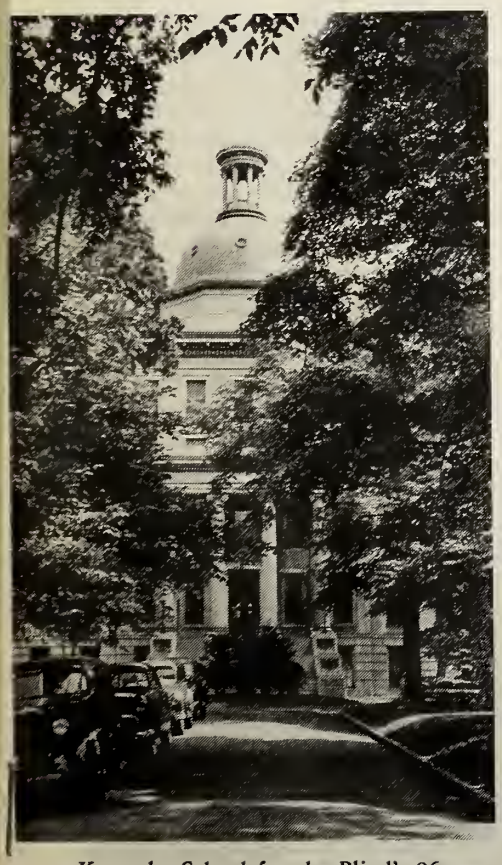


—Photos by R. L. Kirkpatrick

Touching Sight

Students at The Kentucky School for the Blind, in Louisville, learn through touch and hearing what they cannot see, warmly aided by their next-door neighbor—The American Printing House for the Blind—world's largest publisher of literature and helps for the unsighted

By M. J. RoBards



Kentucky School for the Blind's 96-year-old administration building is on shady grounds, houses classes. Boys' and girls' "dorms" and playgrounds are in the rear.

TIME was, the world gave every blind man a ready-made pattern of living to go with his affliction. He had a street corner, a roadside spot, or maybe a beat. Sometimes he played the fiddle and sang—or just stood in his lonely darkness and chanted his unhappy appeal. Almost always his clothes were shabby, his life monotonous, his business—begging, his sign—"Help the Blind." He usually held a tin cup.

Today the "tin-cup" blind are disappearing off America's streets. The manpower shortage created by the last war put the unique capabilities of the trained blind into national focus. "Help the Handicapped" drives since the war have aided, too, as has the continuing rehabilitation job in Army and veterans hospitals for the war blinded. More and more are the sightless being absorbed by industry—even by some of the professions.

Real groundwork for reclamation of the mass of American unsighted, though, was laid over a century ago when schools for the blind began to spring up in the United States. First state-sponsored institution for the sightless—sixth of its kind in this country, the five others having been privately endowed—was The Kentucky School for the Blind, established in 1842, located since 1853 at 1867 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville.

Fruit of the School

The Kentucky School for the Blind is old but dynamic. Besides setting the academic pattern for other state institutions for the sightless some 107 years ago, the School began early to make embossed books and other instructional materials for both its own students and those of other schools and classes for the blind. Till that time all such matter had been imported from England.

In 1858—as a result of Kentucky School's pioneering—the American Printing House for the Blind was chartered by the State as an adjunct to the School in Louisville. It became the central, national publishing medium for

At right—left to right: **General Agricultural Agent E. J. Hoddy; Assistant to General Agricultural Agent M. L. McCracken; Dr. D. J. Meador, Greenville, Ala., and W. G. Adsmond, Nashville, Tenn., both agricultural agents; and Immigration Agent L. R. James, Biloxi, Miss.**

three L. & N. agricultural agents—located at Atmore and Greenville, Ala., and Nashville, Tenn.—visits him frequently to aid with problems in farming under new conditions. These agents specialize in horticulture, animal husbandry and other farming sciences and know Southern agriculture above all else. As a result the immigrant is helped over rough spots and is soon a producing, vital part of the community.

"Conditioning" the Farms

Many times—past and present—our agricultural agents have proved the veteran and young Southern farmers' only contact with scientific farming. Old Reliable agricultural men have filled many needs—judging cattle shows, helping in sales; aiding potato tours, fruit festivals; selecting foundation livestock for individuals, pushing artificial insemination for dairy cattle. They have helped develop new hybrid corn and countless other products in the established and newer fields; they have fought soil erosion, insects, animal disease and other enemies of the farmer. They have authored countless treatises of instruction and distributed them.

In these activities, the "L. & N. man" has been friend to the wide community he serves and at the same time has helped condition the South—its people, livestock, soil forests—for greater prosperity to come. He has improved the quality of its produce and livestock, increasing the demand for them to the north and east, giving our Railroad many a carload of business.

A diversified South is thus in the making—with industry, agriculture and abundant raw materials as near-equal attractions.

The South Is Ripe

It takes a lot of "selling" to encourage industrial and personal migration, or to teach an old farmer new tricks, but all three development branches have had their tasks made some lighter by modern-day trends.

Agriculturally speaking, many of yesterday's "revolutionary" ideas—scientific fertilization, crop rotation and diversification, pest control—are accepted today because they have "paid off." County and state-extension-service agents, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers, Federal bureaus and other forces are helping spread the "better farming" word, so long advocated by L. & N. agricultural agents and other progressives.

Rural electrification is greatly aiding farm mechanization which came with the tractor's advent. Time for things of a recreational and cultural nature is coming to Southern farmers, making the immigration department's story sound better than ever.

Mechanization and broader farming knowledge have combined so that the South's farmer now raises more and better crops and livestock with less and less help. He is richer, freer, more "sold" on farm life than ever before. He is therefore a prime U. S. market for more and better manufactured goods. The farmers of yesterday—cut adrift by the very same factors—form a pool of able factory labor.

Just as the Southland is now no longer a one- or two-crop farm belt, so is its industry broadening daily. The effect is a more-stable economy—one that holds promise of prosperity elements for years to come.

Today the Company's development departments are trying to keep our Railroad running through a rich country. They are succeeding by "selling the South" to outside individuals and industries, and to Southerners themselves.

Good Neighbor

Fred Thomas, a 14-year old youngster is the latest to join the Old Reliable's active circle of "good neighbors." Fred was walking along the highway near his home at Pruden, Tenn., on May 18, when he noticed an automobile leave the road, and land on the Railroad's tracks.

Just then he heard the whistle of an approaching freight train, then out of sight around a curve. He didn't hesitate, but pulling off his red shirt, ran up the tracks and flagged the train to a stop.

Fred was rewarded for his alertness with a $10 voucher—gift of the Railroad.

Left and below: **"Before-and-after" scenes show how, in a short space of time, one "transplanted" Michigan farmer cleared his land of pine trees, used lumber to build house and other structures, planted successful, "paying" crops, with L. & N. aid.**

visually handicapped of North America.

Now the Printing House—next door to the School—is by far the world's largest Braille publisher and the oldest national institution for the blind in the U. S. Its buildings—newest of which was completed in May, 1948—afford the world's most complete plant for mass producing materials peculiar to the instruction and for the mental diversion of those without sight or whose vision is seriously impaired.

Until 1927 the Printing House was directly under the Blind School's superintendent, but in that year separate administrations were set up. Nonetheless, the work of the two institutions is still closely related and practical research conducted in and by the School is of great value to the Printing House.

Vocational Placement

Long ago the Kentucky School recognized the importance of doing away with the blind man's "tin cup." It established public magazine stands in Louisville, operated wholly by the sightless; and the Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind, which today still produces quality mops and brooms in competition with commercial makers. The Workshop is located a short distance from the School, employs 22 blind persons full time, and is headed by Paul J. Langan, superintendent of the Blind School since 1945.

Though the magazine stands—still in operation—are no longer under its management, the School has not lagged in the vital business of finding work for its graduates.

"Most leaders of industry are yet to be sold on the advisability of hiring the trained blind," Superintendent Langan says, "despite the fact that in many fields the unsighted actually out-produce fellow employes who see."

The matter of vocational placement is of prime concern to Mr. Langan and his 19-teacher faculty. Most of their 132 students—from six to 18 years of age—will probably graduate from high school. Some, showing special aptitudes, will go to college. All students, whether or not they graduate, should be made employable, else one big goal of the program has been missed altogether. And each new school year brings new blind to be taught, making the problem a constant one.

A State-hired placement specialist, sightless himself, has surveyed 250 industries during the past year and a half to discover those fields in which the blind can do creditable work. With plant management's permission he tests himself on these jobs. When he finds tasks he can do, he strives to sell executives on hiring blind graduates for the work. To date he has placed 42 unsighted

Above: With school out, Students Flonnie Howard, Betty Greene, Alma White—all of The Kentucky School for Blind—board No. 23 for Eastern Kentucky homes. Conductor Oscar Argenbright, right, Flagman S. P. Albright, behind girls, help.

Above: Lula Mae Wash, unsighted teacher of reading and French at School, fingers embossing on Talking Book poetry record.

Above: Livingston Gilbert, son of Assistant Secretary M. K. Gilbert, reads for a Talking Book record at Printing House.

Below: Mrs. Lee Judd, wife of Louisville Terminals fireman, plays for her "rhythm band," teaches at School, once worked for Printing House; prepares Braille music.

Above: Printing House's Joseph Beatty is perhaps nation's sole maker of blind's maps.

Above: Stereotypist makes Braille zinc plate from regular copy at Printing House.

Above: Hand of blind switchboard operator feels marking by plunger, popped up by call over regular board, telling where to insert plug. Blind teacher is at student's left. *Below:* Blind typist Louise Rogers "reads" Braille copy. School gives accredited academic work through high school, as well as music, commercial work, home economics.

persons in widely-varied occupations.

The sightless have peculiar qualifications for certain tasks. Their willingness to work, concentration, keen sense of touch and perception make them ideal for many factory jobs. One Blind School grad was earning $60 per week at piecework rates shortly after taking a job netting most sighted persons about $15 less.

In a hardware company's stenographic pool, a Blind School typist daily turns out her full share of letters off Dictaphone cylinders. The work is mostly perfect, too, because unsighted typists *must* be right. Most of them *can't* learn to use an eraser!

Several girls have been trained to operate the Blind School's Braille switchboard, first in the State. A rather simple adaptation transforms a standard board into one fitted for operation by the blind.

Two School graduates work in Louisville photo darkrooms, developing negatives. Another works on X-ray films at a large hospital, after studying a Braille book on radiology and receiving necessary classroom instruction. Space limits mention of many other jobs filled adequately by former students of the School.

The hands of the unsighted are almost invariably gifted. Thus much training runs to handwork: sewing, weaving, clay modeling, and many other crafts. During the war, students knitted sweaters for soldiers with materials furnished by the Red Cross.

The Blind *Play*, Too

All is not work at the School. Extracurricular activities are varied. The playground is well equipped and the School has its own Boy Scout Troop, wrestling squad, and track team. Its eight Scouts attended the recent Jamboree in Philadelphia; the wrestlers won a trophy for defeating teams of the Arkansas and Maryland blind schools in February; the tracksters—kept in proper dash lanes by wires which replace conventional limed lines—took the measure of blind school runners from Illinois and Missouri in a spring meet.

Blind youngsters take part in exhibits, put on plays, go to picnics; shoot basketballs and play table tennis—both by ear, of course; love to hear music, engage in group singing, and often play musical instruments. Concerts featuring piano, choral and organ music are giving each December and June. Annual commencement exercises—also in June—climax the school year.

The Negro Blind

All ten children in the colored department play in that branch's talented band.

As Negro children are admitted to the department—housed a short distance from the white children's campus—totally-blind Instructor Otis Eads, faculty member for over 25 years, teaches them to play some instrument. He himself is a versatile musician and artisan—instructs woodwork, chair-caning and piano-tuning classes, and is a church organist and piano tuner "on the side."

Of the Negro blind in Kentucky, Principal C. L. Horton, of the colored department. says:

"Our biggest problem is getting our people to send their children to the School. Apparently they just can't believe that we can help as much as we do. A certain poor family with eight children—one of them blind—is letting its handicapped child go uninstructed. Some folks haven't learned yet that blind people can be taught to live happy, normal, useful lives."

"Traveling"

A major factor in achieving this normal living for the visually handicapped is the Blind School's "travel" program, by which all students are taught to live and move in the sighted world. L. P. Howser, assistant superintendent in charge of the Adult Workshop, is "travel" instructor. His technique is identical with that which he once taught at the Army's famed Valley Forge General Hospital (for the soldier blind), at Phoenixville, Pa.

Using a star pupil, high school graduate James Scoggins, as model, Mr. Howser explained as James demonstrated how the instructed "traveler" follows a "shore line" with his collapsible cane. A "shore line" may be the side of a building, a gravel-walk edge, a curbing, or some other running guide. As James walked confidently, his cane swung from side to side before him, testing the terrain, keeping in touch with the "shore line." The cane always preceded the foot about to step, so that when obstacles loomed up they hit the cane first and James made necessary detours.

In "travel," students learn to cross streets safely, waiting for traffic lights—telling by auto movements when the light changes, striking out boldly with cane straight before them if there is no traffic light. They are taught to board buses, find the coin-catcher, memorize transfer points; sense and avoid normal obstacles.

"James has pronounced 'facial vision,' sometimes called 'obstacle sensation,'" said Mr. Howser. "Bats have the same 'sixth sense' that tells when an unseen something is in the way. Most every one has it to some degree, but we especially

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Above: **Blind shoot basketball by sound. Boy under basket claps hands, gives others distance, direction. Accuracy average is high. Partially-sighted boy aids fellows.**

Above: **Student James Scoggins demonstrates cane "travel" technique. Instructor L. P. Howser, right, shows James' method.**

Above: **Larry Hutson, 7, at Braille-writer, which has six keys, one per dot; space bar.**

Above: **Finis E. Davis, left, and Paul J. Langan, superintendents of Printing House and School, view Braille cook-book.**

Below: **School's whole colored department is in band. Otis Eads, far left, teaches.**

Pensacola Picnic

More than 1,000 Old Reliable Veterans and members of their families enjoy a three-day System Annual Picnic at Pensacola, Fla.

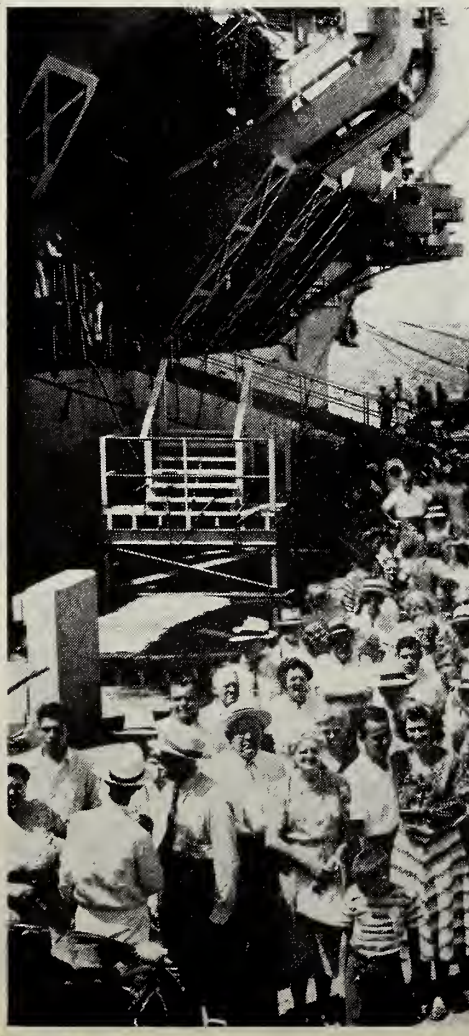
By Ole Reliable

THE records show that the 1949 System Annual Picnic of the L. & N. Veterans' Club was held at Pensacola, Fla., on June 24, 25 and 26. That's true as far as it goes. However, an event such as the Annual Picnic is a state of mind as much as anything else. Considered thus the Outing in most cases had its inception when the annual pass was unearthed from the remoter reaches of the billfold (just to make sure it was still there) and plans were laid to fit the Picnic into the family budget. Certainly the trip both there and back was an important part of the event and the latter will also long continue to have an intangible existence in the many "postmortem" conversations about it.

While Veterans of both sexes predominated at the Picnic many a youngster too was on hand to revel in the clean, white sands of Pensacola Beach, to breathe the good air blowing from off Pensacola Bay and to encounter for the first time—in many cases—that good Gulf Coast seafood.

Outstanding among the oldsters was Fred T. Dockery, retired tinsmith foreman, South Louisville, Ky., the "champion" of them all, who is 86 "going on 87." A close runner-up was A. J. "Tony" Catchot, retired supervisor of bridges and buildings, Ocean Springs, Miss., who passed his 85th birthday in January of this year. Mr. Catchot had been with the Company some 64 years at the time of his retirement on January 1, 1947.

The Veterans and their families began to first pour into Pensacola on the afternoon of June 24. Three Pullman loads came from Covington and from Louisville, traveling aboard The Pan-American to Flomaton, with No. 61 delivering them at destination. Other Veterans from nearby points had already arrived and more swelled the ranks from time to



Above: A group of Veterans, principally from the Cincinnati area, and members of their families, enjoy the sun and air at Pensacola Beach. System President John Isler is at center, seated. *Below:* The *U. S. S. Cabot,* at left, plays host to the Vets.

Ginger, W. L., Jr. (1)--agent ---------Providence, Ky.
Glenn, Robert (1)-----operator-ticket clerk -Carmi, Ill.
Hardin, J. W. (1)-----operator-ticket clerk -------Earlington, Ky.
Hecht, M. H. (1)-----claim agent ----Evansville, Ind.
Hill, S. S. (3)-------agent ----------Belleville, Ill.
Mohon, L. J. (5)------agent --------Central City, Ky.
Penrod, W. B. (3)----agent ----------Bevier, Ky.
Reinhard, Louie (1)---switchman -----Evansville, Ind.
Taylor, C. L. (3)-----sergeant of police ------Evansville, Ind.
Thompson, H. O. (3)---retired conductor ---Evansville, Ind.
Walden, M. P. (4)----retired supervisor, B. & B.-----Evansville, Ind.
Wibbles, P. J. (2)----T. F. A.-------Evansville, Ind.

KNOXVILLE & ATLANTA DIVISION

Archer, L. L. (2)-----agent -------LaFollette, Tenn.
Disney, A. L. (1)-----agent -------Englewood, Tenn.
James, A., Jr. (1)----trainmaster ---Knoxville, Tenn.
Lawson, K. E. (2)----agent --------Maryville, Tenn.
Mounts, R. (2)-------agent -------Williamsburg, Ky.

MONTGOMERY, NEW ORLEANS & PENSACOLA DIVISIONS

Andress, J. (3)-------clerk-operator --Greenville, Ala.
Bowen, H. C. (2)-----agent ----------Selma, Ala.
Conley, Zeddie (1)----baggage porter ----Mobile, Ala.
Day, C. C. (4)--------commercial agent --Selma, Ala.
Doody, J. W. (3)-----switch foreman ----Mobile, Ala.
Floyd, Chas. (3)------agent ---------Peterman, Ala.
Glass, J. R. (4)------agent ---------Evergreen, Ala.
Higgins, F. O. (2)----agent ----------Elmore, Ala.
Jenkins, J. G. (2)----chief clerk ---Montgomery, Ala.
Lee, H. W. (2)-------D. F. A.---------Mobile, Ala.
Machauer, C. A. (1)---yardmaster ---New Orleans, La.
Nettles, J. R. (2)----dining car supervisor -Montgomery, Ala.
Rogers, Tim (1)------red cap -------Pensacola, Fla.
Ryan, C. H. (1)------C. F. S. A.-------Mobile, Ala.
Simmons, E. S. (2)----conductor ----Montgomery, Ala.
Taylor, Henry (3)-----car inspector -Montgomery, Ala.
Tucker, J. P. (2)-----crossing flagman-Pensacola, Fla.
Williams, Robert (3)--red cap -----Montgomery, Ala.
Wilson, T. W. (2)-----agent ---------Andalusia, Ala.

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT

Becker, A. J. (1)-----clerk ----------St. Louis, Mo.
Becker, E. J. (2)-----trainmaster -East St. Louis, Ill.
Byrne, T. J. (2)------freight agent-East St. Louis, Ill.
Cermak, Gene (1)-----secretary -------St. Louis, Mo.
Elkin, E. H. (2)------T. F. A.--------St. Louis, Mo.
Karmer, O. A. (3)----car foreman -----St. Louis, Mo.
Myers, E. C. (3)------C. F. A.--------St. Louis, Mo.
Rothweiler, H. B. (2)--general agent ---St. Louis, Mo.
Rothweiler, Amelia (2)-telephone operator -----St. Louis, Mo.
Upshaw, Bonnie (2)---secretary -----E. St. Louis, Ill.

OFF-LINE

Childers, L. T. (2)----C. F. S. A.-------Chicago, Ill.
Edmondson, E. J. (1)--commercial agent -----Little Rock, Ark.
Lashley, W. H. (3)----commercial agent -----Indianapolis, Ind.
McAfee, R. S. (3)----general agent -Kansas City, Mo.
McFarland, C. R. (6)--general agent ---Pittsburgh, Pa.
Phelps, G. W. (24)---general agent --San Francisco, Calif.
Schmitz, E. A. (4)----chief clerk ----Kansas City, Mo.
Shelton, P. B. (3)----T. F. A.--------Cleveland, O.

"I'll pay you when we get there! I never pay for anything in advance!"

Touching Sight

(*Continued from page* 13)

strive to develop it in the sightless because it comes in handy. Our students rarely bump into things, almost never fall, and have yet to be hit by an auto."

The "travel" program helped "liberate" Lula Mae Wash, blind since seven, a student and teacher at the School for about 35 years. Virtually "campus-bound" by fears of moving in the "outside" world, Miss Wash once rarely ventured off the grounds, then only with a sighted friend. Since learning to "travel," though, she goes almost everywhere—from beauty parlor to post-office—on her own, and even recently journeyed alone to Chicago to take a course at Northwestern University.

She now attends University of Louisville at night, is a junior, majors in speech. At the School she teaches reading to the sixth through eighth grades, French to high-schoolers.

Talking Books Work

Miss Wash says that Talking Books, made by the American Printing House, are one of the biggest boons ever enjoyed by sightless reading and foreign-language pupils. Talking Books—special long-playing records for the unsighted—are rendered by highly-skilled readers whose diction is near-perfect. Miss Wash contends the recordings convey ideal voice habits to the blind, who lean so heavily on speech to express their wants, opinions and very personalities.

Foreign-language lessons, delivered by top experts in that field with perfect pronunciation, solve a ticklish problem for the average instructor. Also, in the reading realm, when assigned to write a review on a certain story or novel, an entire class can hear the work at once—by recording—played on a specially-constructed phonograph, called a Talking Book machine. Designed for use by the blind, these machines are lent free of charge to them through branch agencies designated by the Library of Congress.

Most recent medium for entertainment and education of the blind, Talking Books were first successfully made by the American Foundation for the Blind, New York, in 1932. Four years later, the American Printing House—now producing about 75% of the nation's recordings for the blind—began making them regularly. The Printing House is now turning out nearly a quarter-million of these records a year.

Practically every type book has been transcribed—from Dickens' "David Copperfield," requiring both sides of 68 records, running 15 minutes per side—a total of about 34 hours of recitation; to one- and two-record albums for children—featuring "The Skittle-Skattle Monkey," "Winnie the Pooh," and other juvenile stories. There are also albums of classic literature; "Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine," an 11-record monthly release; records on fine and useful arts, history, science. Some are made for the Printing House's own catalog, some on contract for the Library of Congress, some for other publishing houses for the blind. All are produced on a non-profit basis.

Finis E. Davis, superintendent of the Printing House since 1947, points out that while *recorded text-books* are but a small portion of total Talking Book production, they are nonetheless on the increase and should someday open new realms of thought and activity for many of the sightless. Sound reproduction is now very practical and advantageous, particularly for those adult blind who have had no chance to master Braille in their youth.

The Printing House's facilities for making Talking Books are most complete. Starting with basic Vinylite powder, technicians make plastic slugs which in turn are pressed into finished records. Others pour the wax on which

are made original recordings, transformed into "masters" by electroplating processes performed right at the House. A "master" goes through some 75 handlings before it is ready to be used in mass-producing records. Once "masters" are ready, though, a two-sided record can be pressed in about 55 seconds with the House's modern equipment.

Wonders from Six Dots

The world's blind are indebted to Louis Braille, a 19th Century Frenchman, for the embossed "writing" bearing his name, since 1918 the sole code for the sightless. The system is comprised of signs formed by use of all possible combinations of raised dots, numbered and arranged like this:

(1) • • (4)
(2) • • (5)
(3) • • (6)

The letter "a"—for example—is represented by a raised No. 1 dot, "b" by raised Nos. 1 and 2 dots. The 63 possible dot-combinations are also used to write music, mathematics, chemical notations, and foreign languages. As the student advances through Grades 1 and 1½ to Grade 2 Braille, symbols become increasingly condensed, as in shorthand.

Those dots are big business at the Printing House, where 18 stereographs—the Braille counterparts of Linotype machines—beat an endless staccato the whole day long. Skilled stereotypists turn out hundreds of embossed metal sheets on these machines daily, transcribing printed copy into Braille's international code.

Some operators may be working on plates for an East Indian Government quarterly magazine, later to be run off and sent to far-away New Delhi, India; or some other copy which had to be first transliterated into the English alphabet before it could go into Braille. Not long ago, the Printing House turned out a Hebrew Bible in 20 volumes, and publications in Greek and Persian have also been made.

Last year over 80,000 plates were stereotyped and almost 32 million pages embossed from them and other plates—the latter always kept for "reprint" purposes. In all, 146 separate literary book titles were embossed and six music books—amounting to 40,000 volumes.

Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" required 1344 Braille pages, while readers of lighter material "fingered" only 388 pages to thrill to mystery in "The Case of the Borrowed Brunette." Music in Braille runs the gamut—from Chopin waltzes to "Rhapsody in Blue."

Most important, Braille textbooks for all state schools and classes for the blind are embossed by the Printing House. Every state traversed by the L. & N.—and many classes in Old Reliable cities—are thus served by this institution.

A half-million magazines were embossed last year, including the now-famed monthly Braille edition of *The Reader's Digest.* About 4,000 copies of *The Digest* are stereographed, printed and bound each month—paid for through that monthly's Fund for the Blind, voluntarily subscribed to by thoughtful people the nation over.

A $12 contribution to the Fund, set up in cooperation with *The Reader's Digest's* headquarters at Pleasantville, N. Y,. entitles a donor to name a Braille *Reader's Digest* recipient for one year. For $35 a donor may designate some one to receive *The Reader's Digest* on Talking Books—also made at the Printing House—for the same period. Surveys show an average of eight blind persons read each Braille *Reader's Digest* and about 15 hear every *Reader's Digest* Talking Book.

Besides the money accruing from *The Reader's Digest* Fund, the Printing House and its 160 full-time and numerous part-time workers also receive support for the huge, non-profit operations through Federal funds; payment by the Library of Congress for work done on contract; by state and private institutions for the unsighted; and by individual subscriptions paid by purchasers of various publications and aids for the blind or partially sighted.

Many Other Aids Produced

The Printing House is the sole U. S. producer of relief geographic maps designed especially for the blind. Map Maker Joseph Beatty prepares wooden and hard rubber renditions of all continents and the United States—with each country or state fitted in separately, like a jig-saw puzzle. Students lift each geographic section out, carefully study its boundaries and contours, so that the average sightless scholar knows much better than the sighted where a state or country is; the location of rivers, mountains, valleys and capitals; and what each section "looks" like.

"So, I sez to th' foreman—'What Safety rule?'"

In another part of the Printing House's "tangible apparatus" department, Braille slates and styluses—for "hand-writing"—are produced, as well as specialized arithmetic slates for doing problems by hand in Braille.

One group monthly assembles about 50 new Braillewriters and repairs them for the nation's blind schools. These machines look like portable typewriters, but have only a space bar and six keys—one for each Braille dot—on their keyboards. Thousands of these machines are now in use in this country and Canada, and requests for them come from all over the world.

Latest department is that which makes large-print books for the partially-sighted. Last year this new division produced over a quarter-million pages of material—"blown up" from regular ink-print books—for specific distribution to special classes in residential schools and other classes for the blind the nation over.

Keeping stereographing, printing, binding, and Talking-Book equipment in repair requires the full-time services of several machinists. Research in the manufacture of a lighter, more electrically-controlled stereograph machine has consumed over two years of engineering time, but the new apparatus promises greater speed and more faithful Braille reproduction—vital to good "finger-reading."

For the Cooks

Perhaps the most thoroughly-appreciated Braille work produced in years is a cook book for those who must prepare meals without benefit of vision. Marjorie Hooper, Braille editor for the Printing House, and Mrs. Paul J. Langan, wife of the School's superintendent, collaborated in producting it.

Containing many simple, tested recipes, the book also tells how the blind housewife can keep an immaculate house, time a pressure cooker, light a gas burner, separate an egg yolk from the white, and how to do other seemingly simple tasks—real problems for the sightless.

Pages of the cook book are of special, washable paper, as blind cooks are more inclined to spill ingredients than others. A supplement of gummed Braille labels for canned goods and other foods comes with the book. When the grocery boy brings in supplies, the blind housewife gets him to identify the cans and cartons. She quickly sticks the proper embossed

labels across their faces and places them on the shelf. Then she can assuredly "feel" her way through the preparation of any meal.

Working Together

The Printing House and School—in different fields of instruction of the sightless—cooperate on many projects besides the Braille cook book. Nine of the Printing House's proofreaders and one of its Ediphone operators are blind—and most of them were once students at the School. Also, progress made by the School's pupils directly reflects the success of the Printing House's literature.

Both institutions strive constantly to reach more blind persons with more intelligent instruction, better helps to a fuller life, greater encouragement to learn. The task is challenging and rewarding. This year, eight students received high-school diplomas from the School and of them five also graduated from Louisville public high schools, taking and passing courses given to their sighted friends. All eight graduates can qualify for college work—and some may so further their learning.

For these and thousands of other visually-handicapped persons floods of light for growing usefulness are thus being released because a few *far-sighted* people saw the wisdom of giving "sight" to the sightless. A great national liability is thus being turned into a real asset because educational pioneers saw the sign—"Help the Blind"—and really decided to do it!

W. E. Ross Dies

William Earl Ross, assistant freight agent, Cincinnati, O., at the time of his retirement on April 1, 1945, died on June 23. Prior to becoming assistant agent at Cincinnati on April 1, 1943, Mr. Ross had been agent at Cincinnati since February 25, 1933, relinquishing the post because of ill health.

W. E. Ross

Interment was in Highland Cemetery, Covington, Ky., on June 25. He is survived by his wife.

A native of Eldorado, Ill., Mr. Ross was first employed by the Railroad on February 1, 1896 as a messenger at the East End Station, Cincinnati. He later served in various clerical positions in the Cincinnati area prior to appointment as assistant agent in January, 1927 and then agent at Latonia, Ky., on May 1, 1928. Later, in 1931, Mr. Ross became assistant agent, with appointment as agent, Cincinnati, on February 25, 1933.

Gold in "Them Thar Ills"

By looking at the Railroad's operations with critical eyes several employes are awarded during the month of June through the Suggestion System

SEVEN suggesters were awarded a total of $65.83 for the eight suggestions adopted during the month of June, one suggester, as is obvious, ringing the bell twice. He was C. W. Korbe, clerk, Louisville, Ky., who received $6.33 each for Nos. 14205 and 14206, the first proposing that stickers used in the auditor freight accounts office for placing on abstracts be marked for certain series, with the bulk being left blank and thus identified by their lack of marking; and the second suggesting the elimination of a form letter which was, in effect a duplication of a printed form used by the auditor freight accounts in connection with statement of differences.

Other suggestions adopted, their suggesters and the awards granted were as follows:

D. L. Walls, engineer, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., $15.19 for No. 14023, recommending the placing of car-length stop signs at the ends of the tracks at Mt. Pleasant Roundhouse to avoid damaging engine footboards.

Kirby O. Phillips, blacksmith, South Louisville Shops, $12.66 for No. 13995, offering for adoption a device for positioning bolts for forging. After heating, the bolt is placed on a small platform which revolves one-half turn to present the cold end to the forger.

L. A. Holtsford, flagman, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., $6.33 for No. 13314, that an air kicker for the turntable at Florence, Ala., be installed, replacing manpower.

W. G. Barnes, brakeman, Pensacola, Fla., $6.33 for No. 13673, proposing that the telephone booth at the south end of the passing track at Perdido, Ala., be moved farther away from the main track to provide a better view of signals.

To one who wishes to remain anonymous, $6.33 for No. 13827, asking that the waste of fuel for Diesels in the Louisville Terminals be investigated. Pipe joints were tightened and a valve ordered, with repairs also being made to the electrical equipment.

J. L. Terry, laborer, Paris, Ky., $6.33 for No. 13996, recommending that the First Aid Kit in the engineers' register room at Paris be moved to the coal chute and that a lock and key be provided for it.

—H. N. Clarke, Secretary, Suggestion System, Room 200B, General Office Building, Louisville, Ky.

PREPARED FOR RAINY DAYS

(The accompanying letter which first appeared in the "Letters to The Times" column of the Louisville Times *on May 30, of this year, is mentioned by President James B. Hill in this month's Message.—Editor.)*

To the Editor of The Times: Imagine people earning $80 a week not saving anything.

Let me tell what my husband and I do on $45 a week. We have six children and all medical and hospital bills were paid cash on delivery. We owe only $300 on our home, which is in a nice residential district. We have a savings account. It's small, but it's something. We have a $100 Christmas savings in addition. The children have a savings account of their own.

Our oldest boy, who is 13 and in high school, has a paper route. With the money he earns, he has a savings account, buys his clothes and has spending money. The other children dress as well as the average child.

We have three good meals a day, bacon or ham, eggs, cereal, milk and fruit juice or fruit for breakfast; anything suitable for a lunch box, and for dinner meat, two vegetables, salad and dessert.

These are the things we don't have: A car, cigaretts and liquor.

About this time some of your readers are saying, "Well, just what do the old morons do?" We aren't morons, we think we are pretty smart to do so well. We go in for good clean fun. We like sports of all kinds. We like to see that our children are reared properly. The older boy and girl are Scouts. When the boys go out, the younger, 11, is in at 9. The high school boy is in at 10. The older girl goes out at night only when she can be called for by an adult. I'm proud of my family and I'm proud to have sense enough to do the things we do.

New Albany, Ind. CATHERINE DAILY.

WILLIAM H. (BILL) ANDERSON SPORTS EDITOR

Sports on the Old Reliable

Birmingham's Humming Birds Are on Their Way

The Humming Birds, the Railroad's stellar softball aggregation at Birmingham, Ala., after a very shaky beginning, have skyrocketed from a meagre one win and five losses to an outstanding six wins and five losses. They have thus won their last six out of seven games—looks like there's no stopping them now! The Birds are in fourth place (as of June 14) and by mid-July should be sitting on the top spot in the league.

Al Long, veteran hurler from last year's squad, has pitched all but one game this season and is the team's workhorse. The entire squad has played heads-up ball and their hitting has been outstanding. The infield has completed more double plays than any other team in the league, which has contributed greatly to the team's winning spree.

Old Reliable fans have supported the team since the very first and are confident that it will come out on top.

—*Ed Atkins*

Another Boost for Kentucky Lake

After reading Floyd L. Berry's article, "America's 'Fishingest' City," in the April issue of the L. & N. MAGAZINE, the writer and two other employes at Evansville—Telephone Operator Melvin MacGregor and Clerk Robert Martin—became afflicted with a malady best diagnosed as *fishing wanderlust.*

The only cure seemed to be a trip to the waters of Kentucky Lake—the sooner the better. Accordingly, the early part of May found us en route to Gilbertsville Dam for a two-day stay. Back home, but anticipating another trek there again soon, we can report that Mr. Berry knows whereof he speaks.

Our first fishing was done from the boat dock which is on a little cut-off of the river right below the Dam. We used live bait, poles and line and fished for crappie. We finally found a spot that was just right and Mr. Martin, better known as "Pepper," caught 13 crappie in less than 30 minutes. By 8:00 a.m.—we had started early—we had two strings full of crappie—about 30 in all, ranging in size from eight to 12 inches.

We next decided to try our hand with artificial bait and selected a spot where the water below the Dam was unusually swift. Using heavy sinkers on our casting rods we would cast out a little way in the rushing waters and then jerk back. This technique removed several skip jacks, white perch and striped bass from the Lake, "Pepper" catching several striped bass that weighed in at more than two pounds.

We can heartily recommend the fishing at Gilbertsville Dam. It has everything to make a fisherman happy—bait, groceries, cabins, restaurants, equipment, boats, guides—*and* fish.

—*Harold Chancellor*

Chief Clerk Swanson Snares Another

G. M. Swanson, chief clerk in the division freight office, Knoxville, Tenn., who consistently averages par over the local courses, has quite a collection of golf trophies, his latest being a handsome cup awarded the winner of the Martel Tournament played at Martel, Tenn., during the early part of May. "Jay," as Mr. Swanson is called by his friends, qualified easily and won the tournament's first flight.

THEY DROPPED THEM A LINE

Fireman A. R. Davis and Caller J. H. McGowan, of the Memphis Line, show what "pull" can do when you fish in the waters of Kentucky Lake. The 30 crappie they hold weighed a total of some 39 pounds.

The Knoxville City Tournament, which was held at the Deane Country Club during the middle of June, gave Jay another opportunity to demonstrate his prowess where the "birdies" and "eagles" roam. He qualified for the championship flight, subsequently eliminating the medalist in the first round. However, he faltered in the second round, losing his match on the 18th hole when he failed to sink a vital 30-inch putt.

—*J. R. McNutt*

It's The Dixie Limiteds—Six To None

Four more nights of action have passed in the Louisville Co-op's softball league since our last report in the June issue and the pattern of the standing has taken on a definite formation. The line of demarkation between the first and second divisions is nearly certain, with only the Florida Arrow team having much chance to gain admission to the elite upper circle.

The Dixie Limited club continues to roll undefeated, having posted six consecutive wins. Their biggest test came on June 7 when they met the undefeated Humming Birds, but the Dixie nine repelled the invaders 10-5, although matched in hits, each team securing 11. Belew tossed a no-hitter, the first of the season, in the June 21 meeting with Crescent Limited to prove the Dixies have pitching as well as defensive and offensive sparkle.

The South Winds have made the most rapid gains in recent games, winning three straight after dropping two of their first three. June 21 found them up against the Humming Birds, who had pounded them by a 16-4 count three weeks earlier, and the South Winds posted a 6-4 win in one of the best tilts played in the league to date. Lanky Joe Soeder has been persuaded to take over the mound duties, and the team expects to make it rough on all opposition for the remainder of the season.

The Humming Birds, which were off to a flying start at the last writing, have failed to make the grade in two big tests, and now find themselves hard pressed to hold a contender's spot. Losses to the

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R

RoBards, M.J.

TOUCHING SIGHT.

Date Due			